

January 30, 1973

(Start Belt #7)

SPEAKER: Yes, we will take the Senator's amendment.

CLERK: Then, I move that the Executive Board or any committee be requested--it's got to read the way it was, Mr. President. I move the Executive Board be requested to prepare a bill for introduction for a new building commission.

SPEAKER: Well, the chair would rule that in order for us to consider this motion, it would take a simple majority of those voting on this in order to just prepare the bill. All those in favor of Senator Carpenter's motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted. The clerk will record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 15 nays, 9 not voting, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Motion prevails. Are there other motions on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, we have some committee reports here. Read. That is all, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Any other pending motions.

CLERK: None, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Any unfinished business. Any messages. We are ready for the consideration of bills on General File. That list is headed by LB 128 and I believe that is Senator Stromer's bill. Excuse me.

UNIDENTIFIED: Mr. President, I think it is LB 9 that is scheduled for today.

SPEAKER: The chair stands corrected. The brackets misled me. LB 9.

CLERK. Read title. LB 9. There are no committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Stromer.

SENATOR STROMER: Mr. President, fellow members, since our time is brief and I know that many people maybe want to speak on the bill, I'll just briefly outline I think are some of the advantages of offering this amendment. This is an amendment to the Constitution. It does nothing as far as changing the fact this is a Unicameral body, it would remain a Unicameral body. But the main thing it would do would be to offer the people of Nebraska a choice as to whether they wanted this particular body to be chosen by a party ballot or to continue in its nonpartisan manner. This particular issue given to the people of Nebraska in 1934 when also they had the decision to make as to whether this was to be a Unicameral or bicameral body. At that time, this issue was put on the ballot as one major issue and I think that they have never since that time had the opportunity to be able to separate those two issues when they are actually two separate issues and I think what we have here is maybe whether we're in favor or opposed. We've never really given the people of the state of Nebraska an opportunity to say on a ballot as to how they felt as to whether this should be a partisan or nonpartisan body, and so I will close ~~there~~ Mr. Chairman because I think some of the other points may be raised by other discussion on this particular bill this morning.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Well, Mr. President, I don't suppose we'll get this done before the noon hour, so my comments are going to be short. But basically, all this amounts to is whether or not you believe in the two party system. It amounts to nothing else. By having a nonpartisan Legislature, we, of course, dilute the power of the parties. Parties have basically no power in this